

CLAIMS:

1. A method of making an as-formed cross direction extensible nonwoven web comprising:
 - 5 a) extruding continuous thermoplastic fibers having an average diameter greater than about 10 microns;
 - b) quenching the fibers;
 - c) melt-attenuating the fibers;
 - d) collecting the continuous thermoplastic fibers on a moving foraminous forming surface to form an unbonded nonwoven web; and
 - e) pattern bonding the nonwoven web by the application of heat and pressure; wherein the bonded nonwoven web has substantially uniform basis weight, and further wherein the tensile force required to extend the bonded nonwoven web 30 percent in the cross machine direction is less than about 60 percent of the cross machine direction peak tensile force of the bonded nonwoven web.
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2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the tensile force required to extend the bonded nonwoven web 30 percent in the cross machine direction is less than about 50 percent of the cross machine direction peak tensile force of the bonded nonwoven web.
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3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the tensile force required to extend the bonded nonwoven web 30 percent in the cross machine direction is less than about 40 percent of the cross machine direction peak tensile force of the bonded nonwoven web.
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4. The method of Claim 1 wherein the bonded nonwoven web has a MD:CD tensile strength ratio of at least about 3:1.
5. The method of Claim 1 wherein the continuous thermoplastic fibers are extruded in a crimpable cross sectional configuration and further including the step of applying heat to the fibers to activate crimp.
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6. The method of Claim 5 wherein the step of applying heat to the fibers is performed prior to the step of collecting the fibers on the foraminous forming surface.

7. The method of Claim 5 wherein the step of applying heat to the fibers is performed after the step of collecting the fibers on the foraminous forming surface.
8. The method of Claim 5 wherein the crimpable cross sectional configuration is side-by-side or eccentric sheath-core configuration.
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9. The method of Claim 1 further including the step of laminating the nonwoven web to at least one additional layer.
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10. The method of Claim 9 wherein the at least one additional layer is selected from the group consisting of breathable films, elastic films, foams, and nonwoven webs.
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11. A cross machine direction extensible nonwoven web comprising continuous thermoplastic fibers and a plurality of thermal bond points in a pattern, the continuous thermoplastic fibers having an average diameter greater than about 10 microns, the nonwoven web having substantially uniform basis weight, and wherein the force required to extend the bonded nonwoven web 30 percent in the cross machine direction is less than about 60 percent of the cross machine direction peak tensile force of the bonded nonwoven web.
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12. The nonwoven web of Claim 11 wherein the force required to extend the bonded nonwoven web 30 percent in the cross machine direction is less than about 50 percent of the cross machine direction peak tensile force of the bonded nonwoven web.
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13. The nonwoven web of Claim 11 wherein the force required to extend the bonded nonwoven web 30 percent in the cross machine direction is less than about 40 percent of the cross machine direction peak tensile force of the bonded nonwoven web.
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14. The nonwoven web of Claim 13 wherein the continuous thermoplastic fibers are crimped multicomponent fibers.
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15. A laminate material comprising the nonwoven web of Claim 11 and at least one additional layer.

16. The laminate material of Claim 15 wherein the at least one additional layer is selected from the group consisting of breathable films, elastic films, foams, and nonwoven webs.

5 17. A cross machine direction extensible nonwoven web comprising continuous thermoplastic fibers and a plurality of thermal bond points in a pattern, the continuous thermoplastic fibers having an average diameter greater than about 10 microns, the nonwoven web having substantially uniform basis weight, and wherein the force required to extend the bonded nonwoven web 30 percent in the cross machine direction is less than
10 about 30 percent of the force required to extend the web to 30 percent in the machine direction.

15 18. The nonwoven web of Claim 17 wherein the force required to extend the bonded nonwoven web 30 percent in the cross machine direction is less than about 25 percent of the force required to extend the web to 30 percent in the machine direction.

19. The nonwoven web of Claim 18 wherein the force required to extend the bonded nonwoven web 30 percent in the cross machine direction is less than about 20 percent of the force required to extend the web to 30 percent in the machine direction.

20 20. The nonwoven web of Claim 17 wherein the continuous thermoplastic fibers are crimped multicomponent fibers.

21. A laminate material comprising the nonwoven web of Claim 17 and at least one
25 additional layer.

22. The laminate material of Claim 21 wherein the at least one additional layer is selected from the group consisting of breathable films, elastic films, foams, and nonwoven webs.